Survey on Flower Plants etc.

829. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any field survey of flower plants, medicinal plants and herbs in the forests, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof : and

(c) the steps taken to protect the rare species thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Southern Circle of the Botanical Survey of India has carried out field surveys in different areas of Tamil Nadu which are listed in the attached statement (*See* below). The findings of such surveys have been documented in three volumes of publications entitled 'Flora of Tamil Nadu—Analysis' (1983—89).

(c) The steps taken to protect rare species include the following :—

(i) Setting up of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves for protection of the fauna and flora ;

(ii) Enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which after the amendment in 1991, includes endangered plants and which now provides strict penalties for infringement ;

(iii) Regulation and prohibition of trade and commerce in endangered species of fauna and flora under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) ;

(iv) Ex-situ conservation of endangered species in Botanical Gardens to ensure survival of these species under captive conditions for their future restoration in the wild ;

(v) Setting up of a National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ; and

(vi) Launching of public awareness campaigns.

District	Areas Surveyed
Coimbatore dist.	Anamalai hills, Shiruvani, Vellingiri hills, Boluvampatti Reserve Forests, Coinbatore City and adjoinings, Maruthumalai hills.
Anna dist.	Kunthiraiyar Reserve Forest (RF).
Nilgiri dist.	Hulical Drug R.F., Upper & Lower Tiger Shola, Pakasura hills RF, Kundah RF, Madumalai hills. (The entire Nilgiris have been intensively explored).
Tirunelveli dist.	Kudiraimoli Teri RF, Singampatti RF, Courtallam RF, Kannihetty, Mundanthurai, Adavinainarholi areas, Agasthyamlai and Surrounding areas.
Madurai dist.	Kodaihanal hills, Marudhanadhi area, Cumbum valley, Algar RF areas.
Kanyakumari dist.	Mahendragiri hills and adjoining and almost the entire district.
Tanjavur dist.	Vedaranyam and Tailaignar RF & Mangrove Reserve forests in Cauvery delta/estuary.
Ramanathapuram dist.	Srivilliputhur and Vasudevanallur Reserve Forests and several other parts for district flora.
Salem dist.	Shevaroy hill ranges.
South Arcot dist.	Javadi hill ranges.
Tiruchirapalli dist.	Narthamali hills, Panchamali hills.

Explorations have also been undertaken in Chengalpatu dist., Dharampuri dist., the entire coastal belt in the State from Madras city to Kanyakumari, including Rameswaram Islands and Krusadi group of islands in the Gulf of Mannar. Studies on the sea-grasses along the coast have also been completed on the basis of plant surveys in the coastal region.

Relaxation of Rules for Handling of Wild Animals by Circus Performing Organisation

830. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering the relaxation of rules pertaining to handling of wild animals by Circus performing organisations as demanded by the Indian Circus Forum, Calcutta ;

(b) whether the trade being carried by the artists in accordance with traditional culture and heritage has been vastly affected by the rules of restrictions imposed by Government ;

(c) whether important issues have been raised by the Indian Circus Forum, Calcutta and whether their communications have been responded ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India *vide* Notification dated 2nd March, 1991 banned training or exhibition of Bears, Tigers, Monkeys, Panthers and Dogs. Indian Circus Federation has challenged this in Delhi High Court. Delhi High Court has stayed the operation of the said Notification. The matter is *subjudice*.

Persons hospitalised due to gas leakage from Cold Storage Unit in Delhi

831. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several persons had to be hospitalised due to gas leakage from a cold storage unit in Delhi on 5th April, 1992 ;

(b) if so, the details of the incident ; and

(c) the action taken to stop such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to information supplied by Delhi Administration, Ammonia gas leaked from a cold storage-cum-ice factory, namely Bulaki Cold Storage located at New Subzi Mandi in Delhi on 5-4-1992. The incident reportedly occurred due to rupturing of air purger valve and gauge glass of Ammonia receiver. A total of 12 persons were affected out of which two were the employees of the cold storage unit while the remaining were outsiders. One of the outsiders later died.

(c) The cold storage-cum-ice factory being a small-scale unit does not come under the purview of the Factories Act, 1948. For such small-scale units, instructions have been issued to Development Commissioner, small-scale industry to monitor their safety through appropriate State Government authorities. These instructions have been reiterated.

रिहन्द सुपर ताप विद्युत परियोजना द्वारा वन-भूमि का अधिग्रहण किया जाना

832. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रिहन्द सुपर ताप विद्युत परियोजना द्वारा कितना वन भूमि क्षेत्र का अधिग्रहण किया गया है ;

(ख) क्या प्रभावित लोग मुख्यत: आदिवासी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनके पुनर्वास के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किए गए हैं;